

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME  
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES  
NEWS RELEASE**



*Cora Campbell, Commissioner  
Jeff Regnart, Director*



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**LOWER KUZITRIN RIVER AND PILGRIM RIVER CLOSURES TO ALL NET FISHING**

Sockeye salmon escapement past the Pilgrim River weir has been lagging since last weekend. The average historical midpoint at the weir is July 18 and escapement projections show that the escapement goal at Salmon Lake will not be met at current passage rates. The escapement goal at Salmon Lake is 4,000 to 8,000 sockeye salmon observed by aerial survey. To have any chance of reaching the escapement goal, all gillnetting and seining must be closed in the Pilgrim River drainage and the lower Kuzitrin River.

Effective at noon, Friday, July 20, all net fishing is closed in the lower Kuzitrin River from 300 yards upstream of the mouth of the Pilgrim River to the Kuzitrin River mouth and in the Pilgrim River and its tributaries until further notice.

If sockeye salmon passage at the weir improves to ensure that the Salmon Lake escapement goal range will be reached then the department will reopen the lower Kuzitrin River and the Pilgrim River drainage to net fishing.

Here are the escapement counts in Norton Sound this season.

North River: 500 kings, 2,000 chums, 90,000 pinks  
Unalakleet River: 230 kings, 32,000 chums, 400,000 pinks  
Shaktoolik River: 600 kings, 19,000 chums, 200,000 pinks  
Inglutalik River: 900 kings, 20,000 chums, 45,000 pinks  
Kwiniuk River: 4,400 chums, 220,000 pinks  
Niukluk River: 13,000 chums, 140,000 pinks  
Eldorado River: 11,000 chums, 35,000 pinks  
Nome River: 500 chums, 27,000 pinks  
Snake River: 160 chums, 1,200 pinks  
Glacial Lake: 1,100 sockeyes  
Pilgrim River: 6,000 chums, 18,000 pinks, 2,700 sockeyes